

# Contracting out hurt health care

By Dale Perkins, Times Colonist June 5, 2010

Re: "Clean hospitals reduce the risk," May 28.

The editorial is absolutely right. When our hospitals and long-term care facilities are allowed to provide substandard services, the health and well-being of patients and staff suffer.

In our region, the situation degenerated immediately after the government dictated that health authorities had to contract out dietary and housekeeping services to private, multinational corporations.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority quickly complied, and in 2004 handed over complete control to the multinational Compass Group, headquartered in Britain.

The level of services with respect to food and housekeeping plummeted, resulting in sickness, more quarantines and subsequent deaths. The recent 10 deaths at the Glengarry hospital are the latest tragedy.

The editorial chronicles how devastating VIHA's mishandling of its responsibilities has affected so many people in our region.

Dale Perkins

Co-chair, South Island Health Coalition

Victoria

© Copyright (c) The Victoria Times Colonist

<http://www.timescolonist.com/health/Contracting+hurt+health+care/3116929/story.html>